What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of processing a request for access to an Internet web site comprising the
2   steps of:
3   intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web
4   site;
5   directing the IP address to an authentication computer;
6   receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
7   directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

1   2.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2   directing an override request to said user; and
3   directing said web access request to said target website when said user exercises an
4   override option.

1   3.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2   directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive
3   without input from said user.

1   4.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.

1   5.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.

1   6.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a

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3   criterion for acceptability.

4   7.   A method according to claim 6, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
5   computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
6   comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored
7   data.

1   8.   A method according to claim 7, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2   computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3   comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from
4   said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

1   9.   A method according to claim 6, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2   computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3   comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater
4   than a threshold value.

1   10.   A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.

1   11.   A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.

1   12.   A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a
3   criterion for acceptability.

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13.   A method according to claim 12, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored data.

14.   A method according to claim 13, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

15.   A method according to claim 12, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater than a threshold value.

16.   A system for carrying out a method of processing a request for access to an Internet web site comprising:
means for intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web site;
means for directing the IP address to an authentication computer;
means for receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
means for directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

17.   A system according to claim 16, in which said means for intercepting a web access request and said means for directing said web access request to said target website are located within the workstation of an individual user.

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1 18. A system according to claim 16, in which said means for intercepting a web
2 access request and said means for directing said web access request to said target website
3 are located centrally in a network containing a plurality of workstations of individual
4 users.

1 19. An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising means for
2 performing a method for operating a computer system having a program, said method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web
5 site;
6 directing the IP address to an authentication computer;
7 receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
8 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

1 20. An article according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 directing an override request to said user; and
3 directing said web access request to said target website when said user exercises an
4 override option.

1 21. An article according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive
3 without input from said user.

1 22. An article according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
3 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

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1   23.   An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising means for
2   performing a method for operating a computer system having a program, said method
3   comprising the steps of:
4   receiving from a user the IP address of a target web site in an authentication computer;
5   testing aid target web site; and
6   sending a report to said user.

1   24.   An article according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.

1   25.   An article according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.

1   26.   An article according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:
2   comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a
3   criterion for acceptability.

1   27.   An article according to claim 26, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2   computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3   comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored
4   data.

1   28.   An article according to claim 27, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2   computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3   comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from
4   said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

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1   29.   An article according to claim 26, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2   computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3   comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater
4   than a threshold value.

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